

[26th March 1964]

V.—CALLING ATTENTION TO DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY
DEPOSIT BY THE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

SRI R. S. VEERAPPA CHETTIAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Industries to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., difficulties and hardship experienced by the electric current consumers of the State Electricity Board particularly the agricultural consumers by the insistence of the Board demanding payment of additional security deposit for continuing service connections without giving an opportunity for payment of the amounts on instalment basis.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madras State Electricity Board takes from its current consumers deposits to cover approximately current consumption charges for three months, at the time of giving the service connections. The adequacy of the security deposits made by the consumers is periodically reviewed by the Electricity Board so that the Board may not be put to any loss in the event of default in payment of current consumption charges. If the current consumption charges for three months exceed the security deposit made by a consumer, he will be asked to pay additional security deposit, commensurate with his actual consumption. The rules do not provide for payment of the security deposits in instalments.

Recently, surcharges have been imposed on all classes of consumers in the State except domestic consumers. Consequently, the security deposits made by most of the consumers have been found to be inadequate. Additional security deposits have, therefore, been demanded by the Electricity Board from all such consumers, including agricultural consumers, so that the security deposits might be adequate to cover the current consumption charges for three months including the surcharge. But the Government have abolished the annual minimum guarantee in respect of supply of electricity for agricultural purposes with effect from 1st November 1963 in the areas served by the Madras State Electricity Board. This has afforded considerable relief to agricultural consumers.

Now that the special guarantee is abolished and a surcharge of about 1 nP. per unit is levied on the agricultural consumers, the security deposit is calculated strictly taking into account the actual consumption of each consumer for three months and additional security deposits required are called for. From an examination of a few typical cases in North Arcot and Chingleput districts, it is seen that where there is scarcity of water in the wells, the additional deposit demanded generally varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 40 for a 3 HP. pumpset, while the consumer gets a recurring benefit of Rs. 40 to Rs. 125 per annum on account of abolition of the special guarantee. In localities where the agriculturists consume more power on account of copious supply of water and cultivate wet and commercial crops, the position will, of course, vary depending on higher use of power for larger quantity of water pumped for irrigation and

26th March 1964] [Sri R. Venkataraman]

consequently better agricultural yield. Besides, the security deposits carry an interest of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum which is credited by the Board to the consumer's account every year.

VI.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- (1) THE MADRAS TRANSFERRED TERRITORY RYOTWARI
SETTLEMENT BILL, 1964.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation to the introduction in, and consideration by, the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras (Transferred Territory) Ryotwari Settlement Bill, 1964.

VII.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

- (1) THE MADRAS (TRANSFERRED TERRITORY) RYOTWARI
SETTLEMENT BILL, 1964.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras (Transferred Territory) Ryotwari Settlement Bill, 1964.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is—

“That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras (Transferred Territory) Ryotwari Settlement Bill, 1964.”

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill is introduced.

VI.—ANNOUNCEMENTS—cont.

- (2) THE KANYAKUMARI SREEPANDARAVAKA LANDS (ABOLITION AND
CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) BILL, 1964.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation to the introduction in and consideration by the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Kanyakumari Sreepandaravaka Lands (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1964.

VII.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—cont.

- (2) THE KANYAKUMARI SREEPANDARAVAKA LANDS (ABOLITION AND
CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) BILL, 1964.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Kanyakumari Sreepandaravaka Lands (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1964.